

Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 10/814,340
Attorney Docket No. 042103

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 1-9 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statements filed April 1, 2004 and June 21, 2004 have been placed in the application file, but the references cited have not been considered. The Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statements fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because they are not in the English language and they do not include a concise explanation of their relevance. The Examiner further states that the English translation abstract of document No. 08-108701 filed in the IDS dated April 1, 2004 is insufficient to enable an understanding of the reference since the drawing was poorly reproduced.

A copy of the original document no. 08-108701 is enclosed. This document provides a clear version of the drawings. Applicant requests consideration of this reference and the IDS filed April 1, 2004.

In the IDS filed June 21, 2004, the only document listed is document no. 54-71856. An explanation of the relevance and an English translation of the relevant portion of the document was submitted with the document. Applicant requests consideration of this reference and the IDS filed June 21, 2004.

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Specification Objections

The Disclosure is objected to because the Specification refers to the claims on pages 4 and 5. The Specification has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Specification is objected to for failing to provide a proper antecedent basis or definition for the term “constitution” as recited in claim 2. Claim 2 has been amended removing the term “constitution.” Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended at line 5 to remove the reference to only one hub hole. Claim 1 also has been amended to clarify that the “hub nipples” referred to at line 7 are the same as the “hub nipples” set forth earlier in the claim.

Claim 2 has been amended to remove the term “constitution.” In addition, the claim was amended to remove the redundant recitation of the structure of claim 1.

Claim 3 has been amended for clarification. The phrase “is not less than one time” has been changed to “of not less than one.”

Claim 4 has been amended for clarification. The phrase “are that the length thereof” has been changed to “are set to a length thereof.”

Claim 7 has been amended for clarification. The phrase “is the same as or somewhat shorter than or longer than” has been changed to “is approximately the same as or longer than.”

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 is hereby solicited.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Document No. 08-108701 (For the IDS filed April 1, 2004)